



Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2014–2015



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What’s New in 2014–2015?

- You may harvest only one canvasback daily. See Page 7.
- Changes have been made to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. See Page 12.
- Hunting permits and Federal Duck Stamps are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom. Please purchase your permits and duck stamps before attending the morning drawings at waterfowl hunting areas.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at mdc.mo.gov/node/16861.



Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and places to hunt than ever before. In the past 20 years, the Conservation Department along with countless other partners have restored tens of thousands of acres of wetland habitat. Hunters can apply for reservations or try their luck in the “poor line” at 15 Conservation Department areas managed intensively for waterfowl and wetlands. For hunters willing to scout, other conservation areas with floodplain habitat provide excellent hunting during periods of high water. Similarly, many rivers and reservoirs offer excellent public hunting opportunity but require more scouting to produce successful hunts. Many hunters have invested in leasing or owning private wetlands and have contributed to the restoration of more than 150,000 acres in the Wetland Reserve Program. Regardless of where hunters choose to go, they will benefit from eight total months of opportunity including a 16-day teal season, a 60-day duck season, a Canada goose season that extends through January, and the Light Goose Conservation Order that extends through April.

2014–2015 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

In the pages that follow, you will read about a record population of ducks, ample numbers of Canada geese, and abundant snow goose populations. However, waterfowl hunting prospects in Missouri are influenced more by local habitat conditions, weather, and the timing of migrations rather than the overall size of duck and goose populations. Natural food production through much of the state was good. A cool, wet spring got moist-soil plants off to a good start. Growing conditions through the summer were also good with some exceptions. Food plants may be limited on some wetlands along the Mississippi River, such as Ted Shanks, that experienced extended flooding in mid-summer. Dry summer conditions in western Missouri have created a greater need for fall precipitation to help raise water levels in reservoirs and flood moist-soil habitat.

Status of Habitat on the Breeding Grounds

Similar to last year, spring was delayed across much of the breeding grounds in 2014. Habitat conditions were mostly improved or similar to last year due to average to above average precipitation. Wetland numbers in the north-central United States were similar to 2013 and 53 percent above the long-term average. The number of wetlands in Prairie Canada was also similar to last year's estimate and 33 percent above the long-term average. Overall, we expect good duck production in 2014.

Duck Status

This year's estimate of 49.2 million ducks represents a record high. It is 8 percent above last year's estimate of 45.6 million ducks and 43 percent above the long-term average.

- Mallard numbers are similar to those of 2013 and 42 percent above their long-term average.
- Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and shovelers are 75, 69, and 114 percent, respectively, above their long-term averages.
- Gadwalls and wigeon are 102 and 20 percent above their long-term averages.
- Redheads and canvasbacks are 85 and 18 percent above their long-term averages.
- Scaup numbers were similar to the 2013 estimate and their long-term average.
- Pintail numbers were similar to 2013 but remained 20 percent below their long-term average. The relatively low number of pintails compared to their long-term average is primarily a result of land use changes where pintails nest. The western portion of the Canadian Prairie Pothole Region has experienced extensive conversion of grasslands to croplands, limiting potential nesting habitat for pintails. Compounding the problem, pintails often attempt to nest in grain stubble early in the spring, and later cultivation destroys virtually all of these nests.



Help for Habitat on the Breeding Grounds

Despite accelerating losses of habitat on the waterfowl breeding grounds, some recent changes have occurred that may slow this trend. The 2014 Farm Bill includes significant provisions for conservation. Federal agencies are working to clarify wetland regulations. One question being considered is whether or not protection should be restored to many of the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region, habitat which is vitally important to nesting waterfowl. North Dakota citizens will be voting on a Clean Water, Wildlife, and Parks Amendment in November. This initiative is intended to use a portion of the revenue generated from gas and energy extraction taxes to fund conservation. In Canada, wetlands receive little protection and continue to be drained. However, Manitoba recently passed a wetland policy with the goal of no net loss of wetland functions. These recent efforts highlight the importance of citizens staying informed and getting involved.

Support Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation

Help ensure abundant waterfowl, healthy wetlands, and a thriving waterfowl hunting tradition exist for future generations. Join a conservation organization to work with other hunters and conservationists. Consider buying an extra duck stamp to support the purchase of additional wetland habitat. Mentor youth hunters to make a sound investment for tomorrow's waterfowl. The Conservation Department offers many opportunities for youth, families, and those new to the outdoors to get involved. Check out the Events section at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping.

Duck Season Date Formulas

Missouri's duck season dates are set according to the formulas listed in the table below. This allows hunters to make plans further in advance. Previously, hunters had to wait until late August to find out the timing of duck season. Now, hunters can determine season dates in late July, as soon as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces whether the upcoming season will be liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), or restrictive (30 days).

This formula provides a compromise among hunters who prefer earlier or later seasons by allowing season timing to vary by about a week over a six-year period. For example, this year the formula results in the North Zone opening on Oct. 25 and the Middle Zone opening on Nov. 1, which favors hunters who prefer earlier seasons. Next year, the formula would result in a 60-day season opening a week later on Oct. 31 in the North Zone and Nov. 7 in the Middle Zone, which would accommodate hunters who prefer later seasons.

Duck Season Opening Dates			
Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	Last Saturday in October	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November
Middle	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November	3rd Saturday in November
South	Thanksgiving Day	1st Saturday in December	2nd Saturday in December

Potential to Change Duck Seasons in 2016

The Department of Conservation considers changes to duck zone and season dates every five years. The next opportunity to consider changes in zones or the use of split seasons will be in 2016. Hunter preferences are an important part of the equation. After the 2014–2015 waterfowl season, the Department will seek hunter input through a survey that will be sent to a random sample of 20,000 migratory bird hunters. The results from this survey will be compiled along with migration, harvest, and weather data and discussed with Missouri waterfowl hunters in workshops after the 2015–2016 season. Hunters often have different season date and zone preferences depending on where and when they hunt. Shallow water hunters often prefer earlier season dates; river, reservoir, and field hunters prefer later season dates. The challenge is to establish season dates and zone boundaries that offer a compromise between early- and late-season hunters as well as between novice and more avid hunters.



Canvasback Daily Bag Limit Decreases

Canvasbacks are among the least abundant of the “major” duck species. Because of their historically low numbers, canvasback regulations have always been conservative. During most years, hunters are allowed a one-bird daily bag limit. Infrequently, canvasback populations are high enough to support a two-bird daily bag limit. This year's estimate of 685,000 is 18 percent above the long-term average but down 13 percent from 2013. The decline has prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lower the canvasback bag limit. For the 2014–2015 season, you may have only one canvasback in your daily bag.

Moist-Soil Plants — Insurance for Hunters

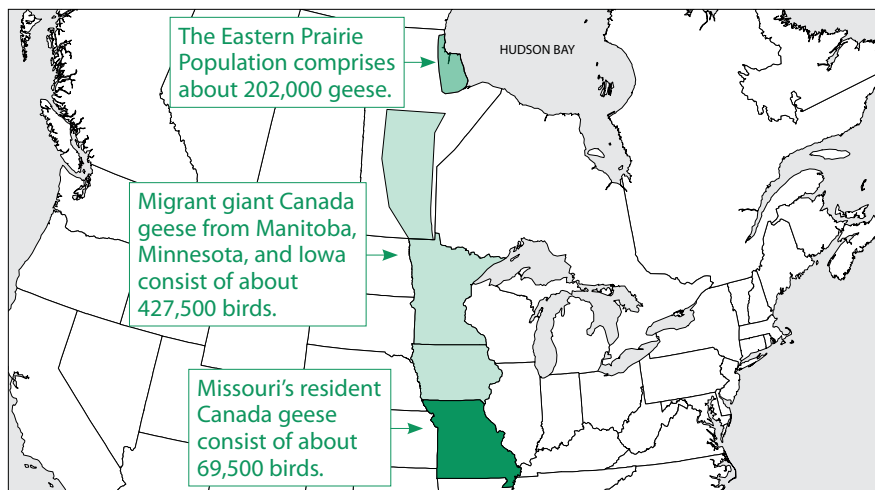
Moist-soil plants can produce up to 2,000 pounds of seeds per acre, providing food for many waterfowl species and habitat for a variety of other wetland species. The cycles of flooding and drying that characterize Missouri's wetlands improve moist-soil food production. In contrast, agricultural crops are less tolerant of the dynamic conditions found in wetlands. Spring floods can result in delayed plantings and lower yields or even crop losses when floods occur after planting. Crops also are less likely to recover from dry periods during the summer compared to moist-soil plants. Incorporating moist-soil plants into wetland management takes advantage of the variability found in wetlands and increases the potential for having food in extremely wet or dry years.

Canada Geese in Missouri

Three populations of Canada geese are present in Missouri during the fall and winter:

- Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese nest along Hudson Bay.
- Migrant giant Canada geese nest in Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa.
- Resident giant Canada geese live in Missouri year-round.

About 40 percent of Missouri's harvest consists of giant Canada geese that migrate into Missouri from Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa. Giant Canada goose production in 2014 is expected to be lower than average in northern states due to a very late spring followed by flooding in some regions. Roughly 25 percent of Missouri's harvest is comprised of EPP Canada geese. Their numbers should be about average this year due to average production. About 30 percent of Missouri's harvest is made up of Missouri's resident giant Canada geese. Although Canada geese are commonly seen, Missouri's resident population is small compared to populations in other states. For example, Missouri's spring 2014 estimate of 69,500 breeding Canada geese was nearly four times smaller than Minnesota's estimate of 261,600. After reaching a peak population of 77,000 in 2000, Missouri's resident population has been stable at about 55,000. Production in Missouri is expected to be average due to good nesting and brooding-rearing conditions that followed a cool spring.





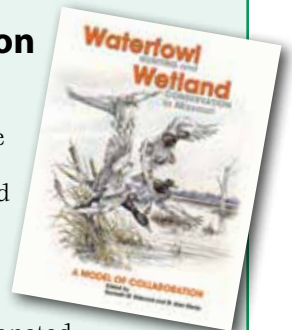
Canada geese

Missouri's Canada Goose Season

Missouri's Canada goose season structure provides easy-to-follow regulations, more days of hunting, and larger bag limits than offered in recent history. Hunters who like to stretch out their waterfowl season can take advantage of the early Canada goose season. Hunters who enjoy combining duck and goose hunting can take advantage of concurrent seasons in December and early January. Late-season hunting is provided by a season that remains open through Jan. 31 — as late as the federal framework allows. At one time, Canada goose hunters had to keep track of season dates for three segments within five different zones and bag limits that differed among season segments. Now, Missouri has a statewide season consisting of only two segments with the same daily bag limit throughout.

Book Supports Wetland Conservation

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support, and dedicated funding have led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations we enjoy today. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri — A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. The authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, have donated their services to produce the book. Sponsors — anchored by Bass Pro Shops, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and private citizens — have covered production costs. All proceeds from sales will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation. The book will be available in October. For details, visit mochf.org.



Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess, and transport ducks, coots, and geese in Missouri, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and Federal Duck Stamp are required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Duck Stamp is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

To be valid, the Federal Duck Stamp must be signed in ink across the face. The stamps cost \$15 and are available online, at some U.S. Post Offices, and at some Conservation Department offices. See Page 12 for details.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots, or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order, but they must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education card.

Note: During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education course and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permits unless permits are purchased using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization (see Page 12).

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting.
Note: Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Adaptive Harvest Management

Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to:

flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri hunting permits:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime using the e-Permits System at **mdc.mo.gov/epermits**. Use your credit card to pay a \$1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card to pay a \$2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.
- **New!** Hunting permits and Federal Duck Stamps will no longer be sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom. Please purchase permits and stamps before arriving at waterfowl hunting areas.

Significant Changes to How Duck Stamps are Sold

New! There are several changes to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. Plan ahead to avoid being caught by surprise on opening morning.

- Duck stamps will no longer be sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom. Please purchase stamps before arriving.
- Many permit vendors, such as hunting equipment retailers, will no longer sell paper duck stamps. Some vendors will offer e-Stamps (see below).
- You may now buy duck stamps online at **www.mo.wildlifelicenses.com**. An electronic duck stamp, or e-Stamp, will be issued to you, and a paper duck stamp will be mailed to you. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for 45 days. After 45 days, you must carry the paper duck stamp that was mailed to you. E-Stamps may be purchased from your home computer for \$17.50, which includes a \$2.50 handling fee. A \$1 Internet convenience fee also will be added to your total online order. E-Stamps also may be purchased from some retail permit vendors where the \$1 Internet convenience fee will not apply.
- Traditional paper duck stamps may be purchased for \$15 at some U.S. Post Offices and Conservation Department offices. Please call the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available.

When Hunting From a Boat

- If you are using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, special state statutes apply. For details, visit mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/WaterPatrol.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms unloaded, cased, and with the action open.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.

If your boat swamps or capsizes:

- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- To help you stay afloat, place an oar under your knees and another behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these invasive animals:



- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities.
- Clog the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat.
- Plug intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- Ruin beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- Spread quickly — a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

When moving from one water body to another:

- **Clean** all plants, animals, and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat, decoys, and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

Report sightings to Aquatic Habitat Specialist, 412 S. Killingsworth, Bolivar, MO 65613-1872. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Daily Bag Limits

See back cover for season dates and shooting hours.

Coots	15 daily and 45 in possession
Ducks 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:	
Mallards	4, but no more than 2 females
Scaup	3
Wood ducks	3
Hooded mergansers	2
Pintails	2
Redheads	2
Black ducks	1
New! Canvasbacks	1
Mottled ducks	1
The possession limit for ducks is 18 (three times the daily bag limit; varies by species.)	

Geese	
Snow, blue, and Ross's (all species combined)	20
Canada	3
White-fronted	2
Brant	1
The possession limits for brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese are three times the daily bag limit (varies by species). There is no possession limit for snow, blue, and Ross's geese.	

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2014, there are two youth-only waterfowl hunting days in each zone for ducks, geese, and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- Age 15 or younger;
- Accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and the adult must possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

See back cover for season dates. Shooting hours and limits are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot seasons.

Light Goose Conservation Order

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1–April 30, 2015. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because the geese have increased in number and are causing damage to the fragile arctic tundra. During the Conservation Order there is no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older only need a Conservation Order Permit to hunt snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 10 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Federal Duck Stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 6–21, 2014, statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- During youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for the dates of each zone) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- Feb. 10–March 10, 2015, statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 9 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18 and 19. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation at 12 conservation areas. A reservation guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–19.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. Quick Draw, an online draw system, was designed to enhance convenience, reduce travel time and expense, and offer hunters more flexibility at selected areas. Quick Draw provides hunters the option of applying twice a week, once for hunts occurring Friday through Monday and once for hunts occurring Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw begins accepting applications a week before the opening of waterfowl season. Hunters who apply and are drawn using Quick Draw receive a guaranteed line position for their hunt. To learn more, visit mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and try their luck in the morning drawing or “poor line.” Twenty-five percent of the positions at Quick Draw areas and 50 percent of the positions at the remaining areas are set aside for on-site morning drawings. The positions of reservation holders and Quick Draw hunters who do not show up are also included in the on-site drawing.

To view a series of videos that offer additional details about these procedures, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/3718.

Hunters wishing to reserve disabled-accessible blinds must show a Hunting Method Exemption or Department of Revenue hangtag prior to their hunt. For additional information, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/9631.

Report Your Bands to reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates, and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at reportband.gov or call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



JIM RATHERT

How the Morning Drawing Works

Walk-in hunters trying their luck in the “poor line” will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team up with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

Areas not using EMD use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD generally turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

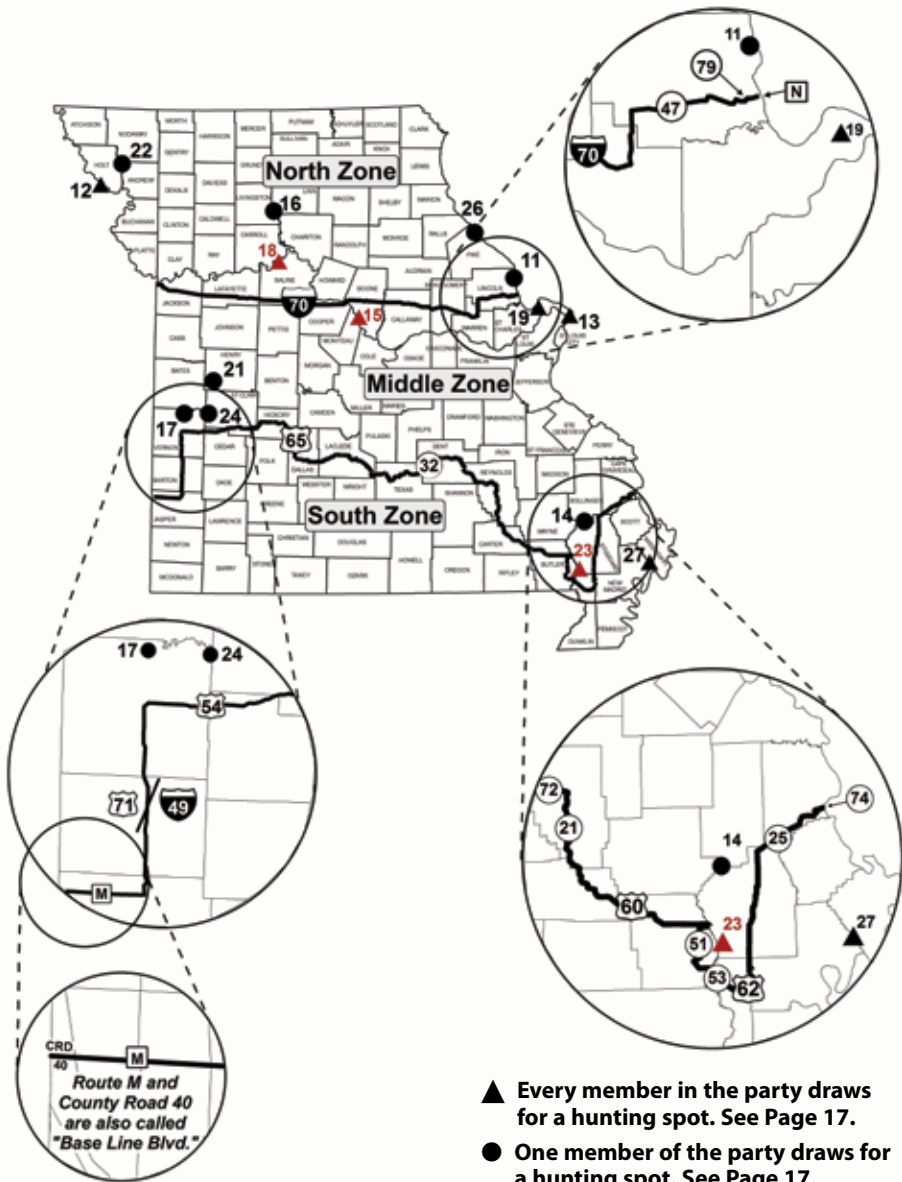
After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are doled out. On some days, there may be more poor-line hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week, and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to **mdc.mo.gov/node/9619**.

Hunting Zones and Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

For a listing of the roads that define zone boundaries, see the migratory game birds and waterfowl section in Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.



- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,307 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (6,318 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; water blinds in timber pools; boats provided for timber blinds only; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Water availability may cause a delay in flooding Timber Pools 2, 3, and 8.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,428 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,154 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps; camping; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,301 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,881 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; 4 water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramps in most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure on west side; all-day hunting on east side.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit [gpoaccess.gov](https://www.gpoaccess.gov), where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting

from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural vegetation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another

person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of August 2014, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- Bismuth-tin
- Copper-clad iron
- Iron (steel)
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Tungsten-bronze (two types)
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-iron-polymer
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

Tips for Shooting Nontoxic Shot

Of the many approved types of nontoxic shot, each has its own characteristics and benefits. Some, such as steel, are harder, pattern tighter, and have more pellets in each load than lead shot. Others are more expensive, but have characteristics similar to lead. Regardless of what you choose, learn how it works with your shotgun before heading out to hunt.

Many hunters underestimate distances and shoot birds out of range. Find your effective range with nontoxic shot by shooting at a target 20 yards away. Once you have that down, increase the distance to your target in small increments. This will help you learn to judge distances and how far you can effectively shoot before you go hunting.

To help hunters become more efficient and ethical harvesters of waterfowl and other game using nontoxic ammunition, the Conservation Department offers “Effective Wingshooting for the Hunter.” These classes were developed based on peer-reviewed scientific research by the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Certified instructors will teach participants how to choose the correct choke, load, and shot size for different game, how to estimate shooting distances, and how to effectively lead their target. For information, go to mdc.mo.gov/node/3710.

Be a better hunter: Know your effective target range before the season begins!

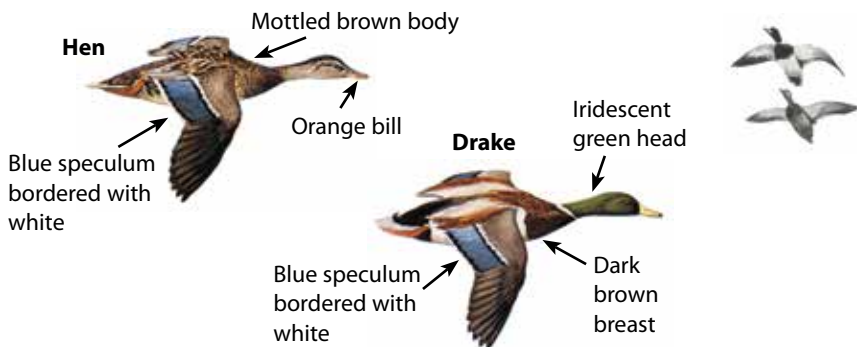
Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl			
Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3–4 steel 4–6 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2–3 steel 4 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1–BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB–BBB steel 1–BB bismuth 2–BB tungsten alloy	50
Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.			
*Note: Small shot (#6) is an excellent choice for finishing wounded waterfowl at close range.			

Duck Identification

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

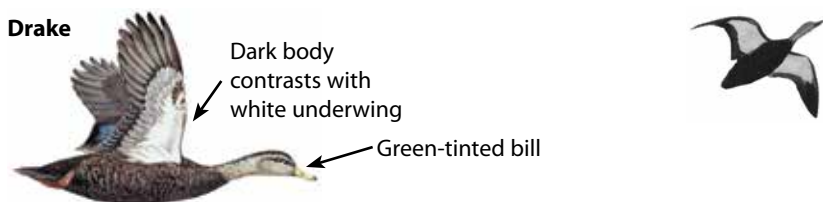
Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



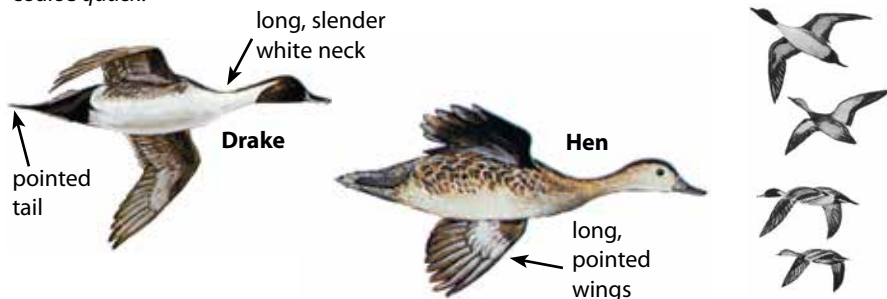
American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice, and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



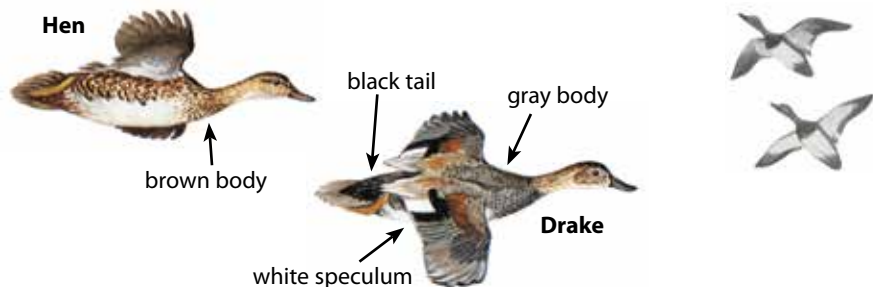
Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



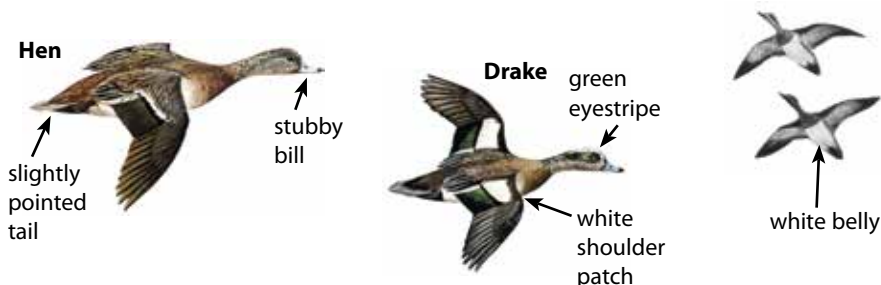
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



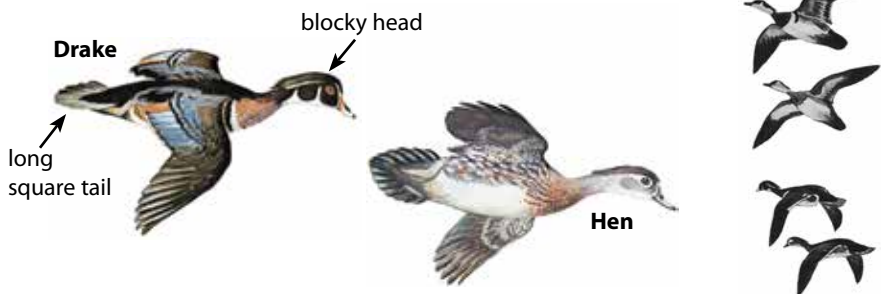
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

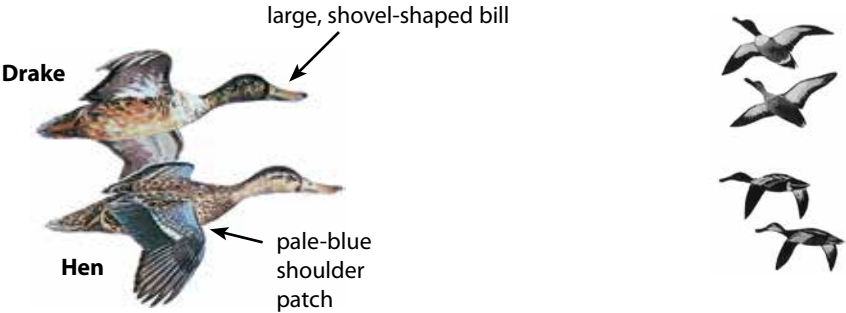
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



Duck Identification

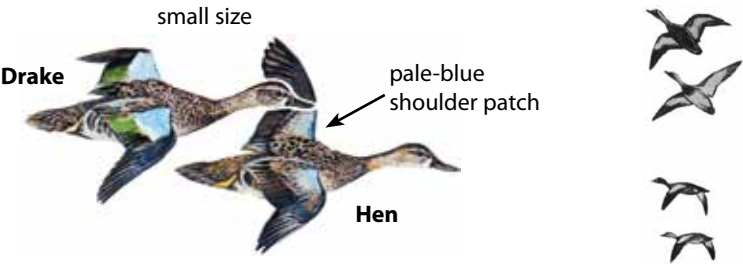
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



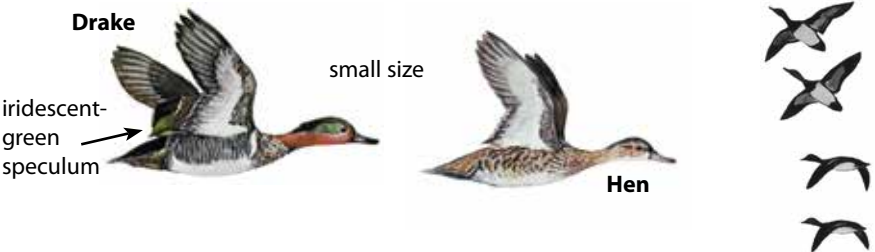
Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



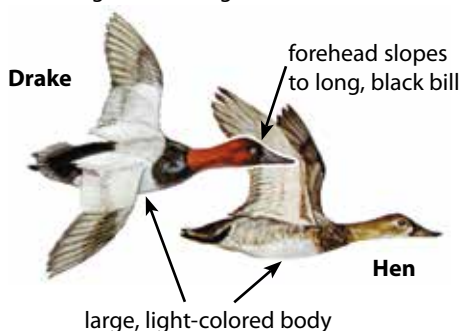
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight, and iridescent-green wing patches help identify these ducks.



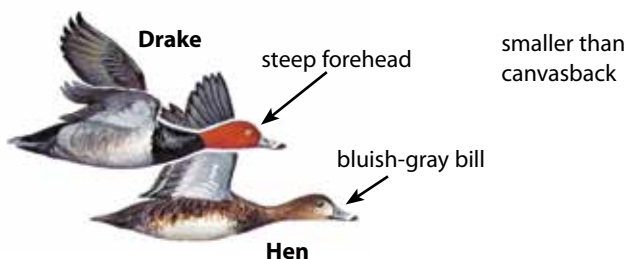
Canvasback ■ 1 in the daily bag

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration, and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



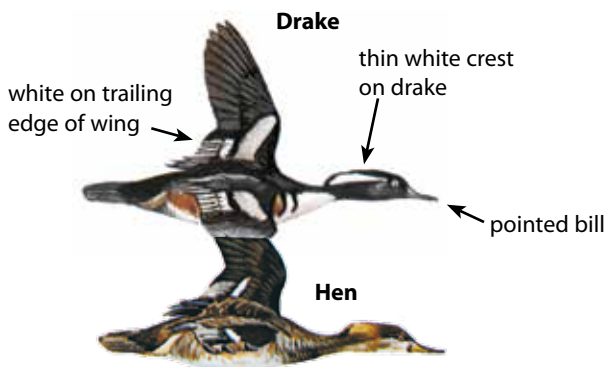
Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

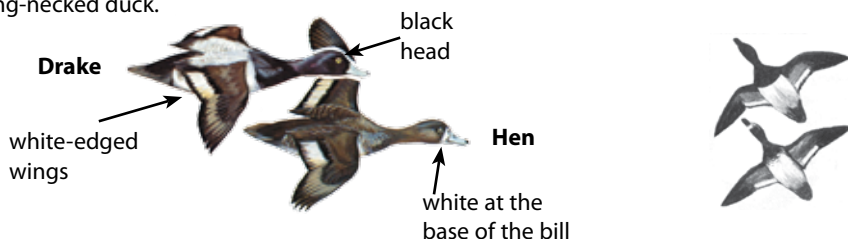
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 3 in the daily bag

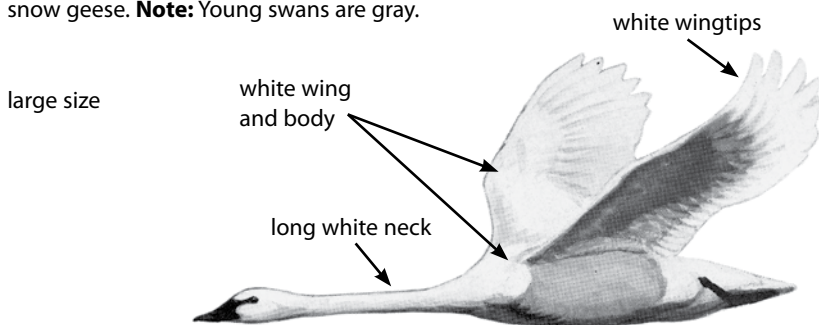
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

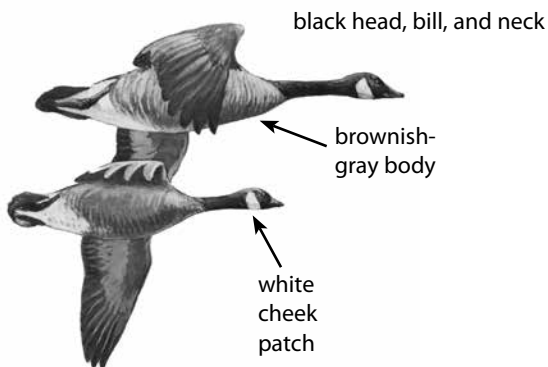
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

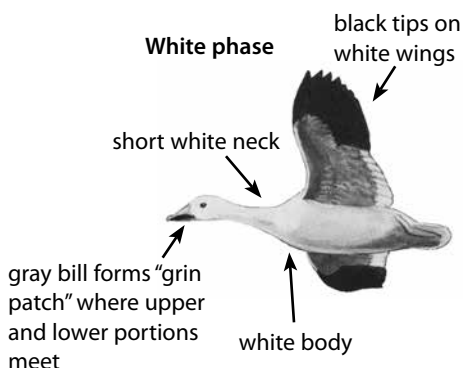
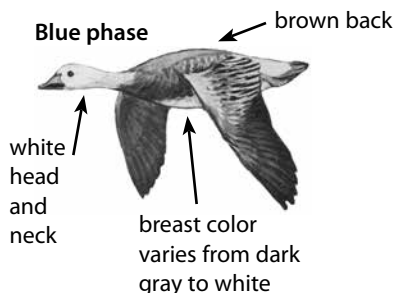
Canada Goose ■ 3 in the daily bag

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch, and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



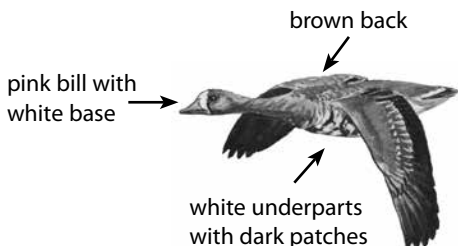
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ 20 in the daily bag

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



White-Fronted Goose ■ 2 in the daily bag

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs, and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs, and white tails.





Director,
Department of Conservation
 Robert L. Ziehmer

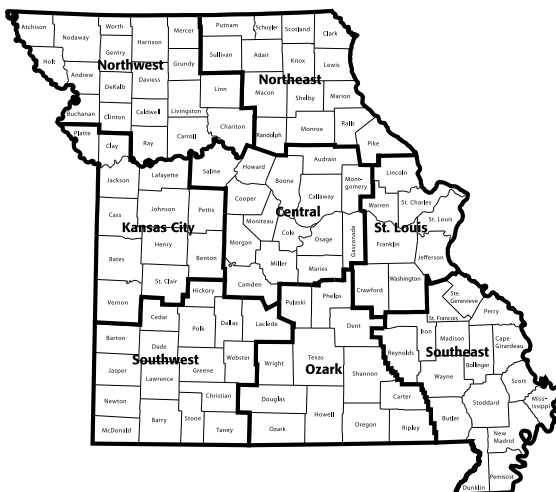
The Conservation Commission

Don C. Bedell
 James T. Blair, IV
 Marilynn J. Bradford
 David W. Murphy

**Missouri Department of
 Conservation**
 PO Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 573-751-4115
 mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

DAY	OCT. 2014		NOV. 2014		DEC. 2014		JAN. 2015	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	7:05	6:51	7:35	6:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58
2	7:06	6:50	6:37	5:08	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59
3	7:06	6:48	6:38	5:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	7:07	6:47	6:39	5:05	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:01
5	7:08	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:02
6	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03
7	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04
8	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:04
9	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:01	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:05
10	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
11	7:14	6:36	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
12	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
13	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09
14	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
15	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12
16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:13
17	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:14
18	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15
19	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16
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23	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20
24	7:27	6:18	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:21	5:21
25	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:25	4:53	7:20	5:23
26	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24
27	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25
28	7:31	6:13	7:04	4:49	7:26	4:55	7:18	5:26
29	7:32	6:12	7:05	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
30	7:33	6:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28
31	7:34	6:10			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:29

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: **www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications**.

2014–2015 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks and Coots	Canada Geese and Brant	White-fronted Geese	Light Geese (snow, blue, Ross's)*
North	Oct. 18–19	Oct. 25–Dec. 23	Oct. 4–12 <i>and</i> Nov. 27–Jan. 31	Nov. 27–Jan. 31	Oct. 25–Jan. 31
Middle	Oct. 25–26	Nov. 1–Dec. 30			
South	Nov. 22–23	Nov. 27–Jan. 25			

*The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 1 through April 30, 2015**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 15 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

Coots

15 coots daily

Ducks

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

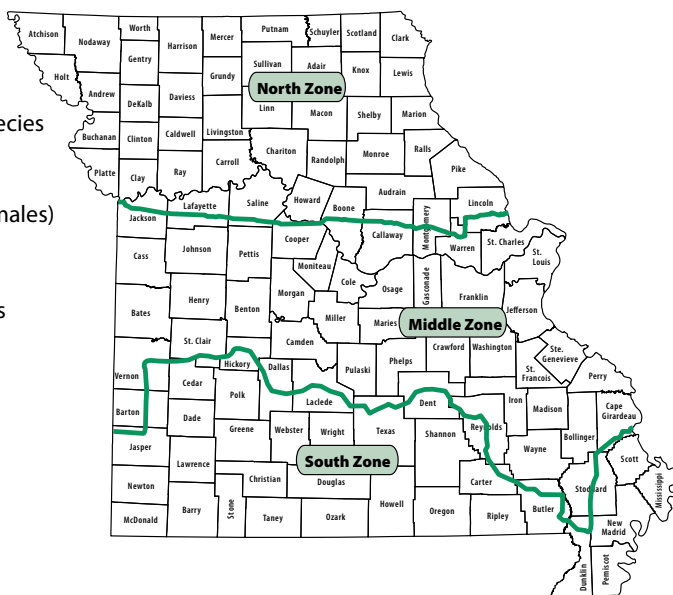
- 4 mallards
(no more than 2 females)
- 3 scaup
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 hooded mergansers
- 2 pintails
- 2 redheads
- 1 black duck

New! 1 canvasback

1 mottled duck

Geese

- 20 light geese
- 3 Canada geese
- 2 white-fronted geese
- 1 brant



For permit information, see pages 10–12.

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit for ducks, coots, brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.